

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

MARIA LUCIA MEARS

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU-3165

Decision No. CU 2106

Counsel for claimant:

Manuel Zaiac, Esq.

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, filed under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$457,000.00, was presented by MARIA LUCIA MEARS and is based upon the asserted ownership and loss of certain real and personal property in Cuba, including mortgages. Claimant states that she has been a national of the United States since her birth.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right, or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

Section 504 of the Act provides, as to ownership of claims, that

(a) A claim shall not be considered under section 503(a) of this title unless the property on which the claim was based was owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly by a national of the United States on the date of the loss and if considered shall be considered only to the extent the claim has been held by one or more nationals of the United States continuously thereafter until the date of filing with the Commission.

The Regulations of the Commission provide:

The claimant shall be the moving party and shall have the burden of proof on all issues involved in the determination of his claim. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §531.6(d) (Supp. 1967).)

This claim is based upon the asserted ownership of rights and interests in certain real and personal property, including mortgages, assertedly nationalized by the Government of Cuba. Claimant has submitted an extract from the Official Gazette of July 7, 1960, of Law 851, which does not establish ownership of property. Claimant has submitted no other documentary evidence to establish her claim.

By Commission letter of July 5, 1967, claimant was advised, through counsel, as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. On August 29, 1967, claimant, through counsel, was invited to submit any evidence available to her within 45 days from that date. Copy of this letter was sent to claimant. Counsel stated in a letter of September 6, 1967 that evidence would be submitted when gathered.

By letter of September 27, 1967, counsel was again invited to submit any evidence available to him within 45 days from that date, and he was again informed that, absent such evidence, it might become necessary to determine the claim on the basis of the existing record. Finally, by letter of May 22, 1968, the Commission made additional suggestions to claimant, through counsel, concerning the submission of supporting evidence in this matter; counsel was invited to submit any evidence available to him within 30 days from that date, and he was informed, that, absent such evidence, it would become necessary to determine the claim on the basis of the existing record. However, no evidence or information has since been submitted.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that she has failed to establish ownership by a national of the United States of rights and interests in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba. Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny this claim and it is hereby denied. The Commission deems it unnecessary to make determinations with respect to other elements of the claim.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,
and entered as the Proposed
Decision of the Commission

JUL 24 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton

Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

Sidney Freidberg

Sidney Freidberg, Commissioner

Notice: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g) as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)